

House Resolution 81

By: Representative Werkheiser of the 157th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 19, 2019, as Georgia Hearing Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, hearing plays a critical role in communication and personal relationships,
4 overall health outcomes, psychological well-being, and safety; and

5 WHEREAS, hearing loss has been tied to cognitive decline, dementia, falls, depression, and
6 isolation, and while it is typically irreversible it can be a symptom of an underlying medical
7 condition, such as infections, tumors, otosclerosis, or Meniere's disease; and

8 WHEREAS a study conducted by the Better Hearing Institute concluded that untreated
9 hearing loss has significant income ramifications, including negatively impacting household
10 income by up to \$12,000.00 annually and costing the United States \$122 billion in lost
11 earnings; and

12 WHEREAS, noise induced hearing loss is a preventable and significant, often unrecognized
13 health problem among adults in the United States and is a growing problem with adolescents
14 due to overamplification of personal listening devices; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Deafness and Other Communications
16 Disorders (NIDCD), more than 37 million American adults (15 percent) report some trouble
17 hearing, and about 28.2 million U.S. adults could benefit from using hearing aids; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the NIDCD, fewer than 30 percent of adults aged 70 and older
19 with hearing loss, and 16 percent of adults aged 20 to 69 with hearing loss who could benefit
20 from hearing aids have ever used them; and

21 WHEREAS, the Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals, a chapter of the International
22 Hearing Society, is composed of hearing healthcare professionals, including hearing aid

23 specialists and audiologists, who are trained and specialize in the identification and
24 assessment of hearing loss and rehabilitation through the use of hearing aids and related
25 devices and counseling; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia Hearing Day, founded by the Georgia Society of Hearing
27 Professionals, is observed on March 19 to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and
28 hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world; and

29 WHEREAS, the theme of Georgia Hearing Day, 2019, is "Hearing the Future" and focuses
30 on hearing loss prevention awareness and promoting access for individuals with hearing loss
31 to necessary rehabilitation services and the communications tools they require.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body advise the citizens of Georgia to protect their hearing and seek the
34 services of a licensed hearing healthcare professional – a hearing aid specialist, audiologist,
35 or otolaryngologist – for regular hearing checks and recognize March 19, 2019, as Georgia
36 Hearing Day at the state capitol.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
39 public and the press.